United Nations A/59/316

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 September 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Item 107 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Secretariat has the honour to submit to the members of the General Assembly the present note regarding the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

2. In its resolution 2004/13 of 15 April 2004, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and requested the Special Rapporteur to establish direct contact with the Government and with the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including through visits to the country, and to investigate and report on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and on the Government's compliance with its obligations under international human rights instruments; and also requested the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out that mandate, to seek and receive credible and reliable information from all relevant actors. Those requests were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2004/221 of 15 June 2004. The Special Rapporteur was further requested to submit a report on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. On 13 July 2004, the Chairperson of the Commission appointed Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand) as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Special Rapporteur has since notified the Secretariat that, owing to time constraints resulting from his late appointment, he will not be in a position to present a report to the Assembly as requested. Instead, the Special Rapporteur will report on his initial observations under his mandate through an oral statement to the Assembly.

* A/59/150.

04-49411 (E) 230904